

Lesson 15

Oct 5, 2023

Bondslaves "δοῦλος" (Slaves)

Titus 2:9 - Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative,

Who are the bondslaves in vs. 9?

1. Even though slavery was wrong, Paul addressed those in slavery and proclaimed the greater issue of the gospel to unbeliever slaves and to the need for bible doctrine to the believing slaves.
2. Even under the conditions of slavery, the lost could be saved and the believing could live a Godly life whether free or not.
3. This verse can extend to "labor" in today's time as we are subject to those in authority over us in our jobs. We as employees are subject to the boss or owner.

4. Paul was not endorsing the involuntary slavery of the Roman slave system but was addressing the attitudes, actions, and matters of the heart for Christians who found themselves slave owners or in slavery themselves.

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5. We are not doing the work for a good boss or refusing good work based on having a bad boss but working as to the Lord. We are to be Christ-like, by being **an example** to the world.

6. When the Apostle Paul refers to himself as a "δοῦλος" bondservant/slave to Christ, He is saying he has been **purchased** by the "**work of Christ**" that paid his penalty for sin. Paul is, as we are, forever freed from the burden/penalty of sin. So as **slaves to Christ**, we are free men! Paul understood this intimately and started his letters that he wrote by referring to himself as a slave to Christ. (From the point of becoming a believer, Paul was willing to serve his master throughout the rest of his life).

Eph. 6:5-9 - Slaves, **be obedient to those** who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, (reverence) in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; 6) not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as **slaves of Christ, doing the will of God** from the heart. 7) With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8) knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free. 9) And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him. **(The slave and the master could be brothers and sisters in Christ, creating a situation where in the flesh the master had authority over the slave, but in Christ both were equal).**

1 Cor. 7:20-24 - Each man must remain in that condition in which he was called. 21) Were you called, while a slave? Do not worry about it; but if you are able also to become free rather do that. 22) For he

who was called in the Lord while a slave, is the Lord's freedman; likewise, he who was called while free, is Christ's slave. 23) **You were bought with a price**; do not become slaves of men. 24) Brethren, each one is to remain with God in that condition in which he was called.

Vs. 23 is not saying you will not be slaves to men, it is saying you are not a slave of the flesh. You have been forgiven (purchased) for your penalty of sin. (Your true master is God, and you are to serve Him).

A Christian's vocational situation is a matter of little consequence (if status can be changed, well and good; if not, it is not a matter for worry). What matters is that every Christian should realize he is Christ's slave and needs to render obedience to Him. Every vocation then becomes Christian service performed for the Master.

Vs. 24 - The fact that God had called each one to a vocation and sought from each one faithful service in that calling elevated and sanctified both the work and the

worker. A Christian could then "live in peace" in his calling and carry it out as one responsible to God.

Rom. 1:1 - Paul, a bondservant (slave) of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, **set apart for the gospel of God,**

Titus 1:1 - Paul, a bondservant (slave) of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, 2) in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

Paul identified himself first as a servant of Christ Jesus. Servant "doulos" again, means slave, a person owned by another. Paul wore this title gladly (See in Titus 1:1 above and Gal. 1:10 below;), reveling in the Old Testament picture of a slave who in love binds himself to his master for life (Ex. 21:2-6 below).

Gal 1:10 - For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still

trying to please men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

Ex. 21:2-6 - If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing. 3) If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. 4) If his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself. 5) But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' 6) then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

Among the Israelites, a person could sell himself and his wife into slavery due to poverty or debt (Lev. 25:39; Deut. 15:12; 2 Kings 4:1; Neh. 5:5), but the servitude was to be limited to six years (Ex. 21:2). Thus, it was an indentured service. Further, a master was obligated to

provide for his servant on his release (Deut. 15:13-14). If a male servant wanted to remain in **permanent servitude** his request was to be validated by the judges and then one of his ears was to be pierced with an awl, to symbolize **willing service** (Ps. 40:6). A female servant could do the same (Deut. 15:16-17).

John D. Hannah, "Exodus," in The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 141.

This was the way the apostle Paul identified his service to Christ. Paul was a **willing servant**, to freely stay as a slave to Christ **for life**!

Answer: The slaves in life are any slaves, free or not, who fall under the authority of a master. If you find no-one you feel you are subject to in this life, you are still subject to Jesus Christ who purchased your freedom from sin! **Therefore, you are to be:**

1. **Subject to your own masters in everything** - having an attitude to serve others; Obedient to God.

2. Well pleasing - well thought of; the master was quite satisfied with the slave's performance; to elevate one's status to a high favor. Do you think God is pleased/satisfied with the way you serve Him?

Christian slaves are to try and please God, without being argumentative to their master.

Not argumentative - We may go to the Lord with our concerns in prayer telling Him about our problems, but then instead of waiting on the Lord's answer, we react and tell God how we want Him to handle it. What comes next is grumbling, complaining and discontent with how God handles your problem.

How do we please God?

1. Praying - Letting God know what is happening in your life and asking for His help.
2. By learning Bible doctrine and applying it to the circumstances in our life.
3. By trusting God for our needs here on earth and trusting in His promise of Eternal life.

4. By our obedience to Him.

5. By living a life that reflects God's character.

10) not pilfering but showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

Not pilfering - We are not to steal or pilfer (petty theft) (embezel) "Voσφίζω" Nosphizo - to put aside for oneself. We are to be loyal and trusted by our master.

Why must we have this loyal servant mentality?

showing all good faith "αγαθός πίστις" (Good Faith)

① pertaining to meeting a relatively high standard of quality. ② a useful, beneficial faith that God can use in His service.

If we as believers don't see the value of what Christ did for us, by Him paying our penalty for sin on the cross, providing for our needs in life and providing an eternal place for us to live with Him in Heaven, then neither

would the unbelieving person see that value through us!

Good faith is us trusting God (our master) for:

1st - faith/trusting God for our salvation; being born again. We are born spiritually dead and given new life.

2nd - faith/trusting God throughout the circumstances of our life. God provides for us.

And 3rd - faith/trusting God for our eternal future.

By faith we become citizens of Heaven. Sons and Daughters of the King. We are Royal family of God.

So, we would adorn the doctrine of God

"κοσμέω" kosmeo - that we may do credit to/make attractive, the teaching of God's word in all respects.

The Greek word translated "make attractive" is used like a setting of jewelry, displayed in the most attractive way.

Answer: We have a servant mentality so that we can display God's grace and His truth to the world through His word.